

APPENDIX B - GLOSSARY

| Term | Definition |
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| Abiotic | Non-living. Climate is an abiotic component of ecosystems. |
| ACHP | Advisory Council on Historic Preservation |
| Active Nest | A nest with an adult pair present at least 1 year within a period of 5 consecutive years. |
| ADA | American with Disabilities Act |
| Affected environment | The natural environment that exists at the present time in an area being analyzed. The environment of the area to be affected or created by the alternatives under consideration. |
| Age class | An age grouping of trees of according to an interval of years, usually 20 years. A single age class would have trees that are within 20 years of the same age, such as 1-20 years or 21-40 years. |
| Air Quality | Refers to air standards for various classes of air as designated by the Clean Air Act, P.L. 88-206: Jan. 1978. Airshed Basic geographic units in which air quality is managed. |
| Airshed | A geographic area that shares the same air. |
| Alternative | A combination of management prescriptions applied in specific amounts and locations to achieve a desired management emphasis as expressed in goals and objectives. One of several policies, plans, or projects proposed for decision. |
| Alternative, No Action | An alternative that maintains current established trends or management direction. |
| Anadromous Fish | Fish that migrate from salt water seas up fresh water streams to reproduce. |
| Animal Unit Month (AUM) | The quantity of forage required by one mature cow and her calf (or the equivalent, in sheep or horses, for instance) for one month. |
| Apparent Naturalness | Roadless area characteristic defined as an indicator of whether an area appears natural to most people who are using the area. It is a measure of importance of visitors' perception of human impacts to the area. There may be some human impact, but it would not be obvious to the casual observer and the area would have the appearance of being affected only by the forces of nature. |
| AQMP | Air Quality Management Plan |
| AQRVs | Air Quality Related Values |
| Aquatic Ecosystem | A stream channel, lake or estuary bed, the water itself, and the biotic communities that occur therein. |
| ARPA | Archaeological Resource Protection Act |
| Aspect | The direction a slope faces. A hillside facing east has an eastern aspect. |
| ASQ (allowable sale quantity) | The amount of timber that may be sold within a certain time period from an area of suitable land. The suitability of the land and the time period are specified in the Forest Plan. |
| Authorized Officer | The Forest Service employee delegated Officer given the authority to perform a duty described in these rules. A Regional Forester, Forest Supervisor, District Ranger depending on the scope and level of the duty to be performed. |
| Background Viewing Area | A landscape viewing area visible to a viewer from approximately three to five miles to infinity. |

| Term | Definition |
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| BACT | Best Available Control Technology |
| Bark beetle | An insect that bores through the bark of forest trees to eat the inner bark and lay its eggs. Bark beetles are important killers of forest trees. |
| Basal area (BA) | The area of the cross section of a tree trunk near its base, usually 4 and ½ feet above the ground. Basal area is a way to measure how much of a site is occupied by trees. The term basal area is often used to describe the collective basal area of trees per acre. |
| Best Management Practices (BMPs) | The set of management practices that, when applied during implementation of a project, ensures that water-related beneficial uses are protected and that state water quality standards are met. |
| Big Game | Those species of large mammals normally managed as a sport hunting resource. |
| Biodiversity | The variety of life in an area, including the variety of genes, species, plant, and animal communities, and ecosystems, as well as the interactions of these elements. |
| Biological Assessment (BA) | A stand alone document that reviews all Forest Service planned, funded, executed, or permitted programs and activities for possible effects on federally listed threatened, endangered, proposed, and candidate species as identified for the cumulative effects area in coordination with the USFWS. A Biological Assessment is used to satisfy consultation requirements with the USFWS for projects requiring an Environmental Impact Statement. (Reference: Sec. 7, ESA; 50 CFR, 402.12, 1508.7, 1508.25, and 1508.27.) The Biological Assessment displays the Determination of Effects for the DEIS or FEIS preferred alternative. The Determination of Effects (Salwasser, et al. Aug. 17, 1995) is limited to: (1) No Effect; (2) May effect - Not likely to adversely affect (NLAA); (3) *May effect - Likely to adversely affect (LAA); and (4) Beneficial effect. * = Considered a trigger for a significant action. |
| Biological Evaluation (BE) | Documentation on USFS sensitive species (animal and plant) contained within an EIS. Documentation includes a review of USFS sensitive species present, their habitat, and addresses and identifies the Determination of Effects on these species. The USFWS review of the biological evaluation is addressed through public scoping and conducted in conjunction with overall agency review of the DEIS. Reference FSM 2673.4 - Biological Evaluations for Sensitive Species. Opinions in the determination of impacts to sensitive species (Salwasser, et al. Aug. 17, 1995) are limited to: (1) NI = No impact; (2) MIIH = May impact individuals or habitat, but will not likely contribute to a trend towards federal listing, or cause a loss of viability to the population or species; (3) *WIFV = Will impact individuals or habitat with a consequence that the action may contribute to a trend towards federal listing or cause a loss of viability to the population of species; and (4) BI = Beneficial impact. * = Trigger for a significant action as defined in NEPA. |
| Biological Opinion | An official report by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) issued in response to a formal Forest Service request for consultation or conference. It states whether an action is likely to result in jeopardy to a species or adverse modification to its critical habitat. |

| Term | Definition |
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| Biomass | The total weight of all living organisms in a biological community. |
| Biota | Living. Green plants and soil micro-organisms are biotic components of ecosystems |
| BLM | U.S. Bureau of Land Management |
| BMPs | Best Management Practices |
| Board foot | A measurement term for lumber or timber. It is the amount of wood contained in an unfinished board 1 inch thick, 12 inches long, and 12 inches wide. |
| Broadcast burn | A prescribed fire that burns a designated area. These controlled fires can reduce wildfire hazards, improve forage for wildlife and livestock, or encourage successful regeneration of trees. |
| Buffer | A land area that is designated to block or absorb unwanted impacts to the area beyond the buffer. Buffer strips along a trail could block views that may be undesirable. Buffers may be set-aside next to wildlife habitat to reduce abrupt change to the habitat. |
| Bureau of Land Management (BLM) | The Department of Interior agency responsible for managing most federal government subsurface minerals. |
| CAA | Clean Air Act |
| Cable logging | Logging that involves the transport of logs from stump to collection points by means of suspended steel cables. Cable logging reduces the need for the construction of logging roads. |
| Canopy | The part of any stand of trees represented by the tree crowns. It usually refers to the uppermost layer of foliage, but it can be used to describe lower layers in a multi-storied forest. |
| Capability | The potential of an area of land to produce resources, supply goods and services, and allow resource uses under an assumed set of management practices and at a given level of management intensity. Capability depends upon current conditions and site conditions such as climate, slope, landform, soils, and geology, as well as the application of management practices, such as silviculture or protection from fire, insects, and disease. |
| Cave | The term "cave" means any naturally occurring void, cavity, recess, or system of interconnected passages that occurs beneath the surface of the earth or within a cliff or ledge (including any cave resource therein, but not including any mine, tunnel, aqueduct, or other manmade excavation) and that is large enough to permit an individual to enter, whether or not the entrance is naturally formed or manmade. Such term shall include any natural pit, sinkhole, or other feature that is an extension of the entrance. (Source: Federal Cave Resource Protection Act of 1988.) |
| Cave Resource | The term "cave resource" includes any material or substance occurring naturally in caves on federal lands, such as animal life, plant life, paleontological deposits, sediments, minerals, speleogens, and speleothems. (Source: Federal Cave Resource Protection Act of 1988.) See also July 1, 1994, CFR 36, Part 261-Prohibitions [specifically 261.8 (e), 261.9 (j), 261.10 (d)(3), and 261.10 (n)] and 290-Cave Resource Management. |
| Cavity | A hole in a tree often used by wildlife species, usually birds, for nesting, roosting, and reproduction. |
| CEQ | Council on Environmental Quality |

| Term | Definition |
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| CFR | Code of Federal Regulations |
| Classified Road | Roads wholly or partially within or adjacent to National Forest System lands that are determined to be needed for long-term motor vehicle access, including state roads, county roads, privately owned roads, National Forest System roads, and other roads authorized by the Forest Service. |
| Clean Water Act | The Clean Water Act is the primary federal law that protects our nation's waters, including lakes, rivers, aquifers, and coastal areas. |
| Clear cut | A harvest in which all or almost all of the trees are removed in one cutting. |
| Climax | The culminating stage in plant succession for a given site. Climax vegetation is stable and self-reproducing. |
| Closure | The administrative order that does not allow specified users in designated areas or on Forest development roads or trails. |
| Code of Federal Regulation (CFR) | Regulations developed at the Department level for the specific implementation of a Public Law. |
| Composition | What an ecosystem is composed of. Composition could include water, minerals, trees, snags, wildlife, soil, micro-organisms, and certain plant species. |
| Conifer | A tree that produces cones, such as a pine, spruce, or fir tree |
| Connected Actions | A connected action is one type of action considered in determining the scope of the Proposed Action. Connected actions are actions that closely relate and therefore should be discussed in the same EIS (40 CFR 1508.29(i)(ii)(iii)). Actions are connected if they: (i) Automatically trigger other actions that may require environmental impact statements. (ii) Cannot or will not proceed unless other actions are taken previously or simultaneously. (iii) Are interdependent parts of larger actions and depend on the larger action for their justification. |
| Connectivity | Condition in which the spatial arrangements of land cover types allows organisms and ecological processes (such as disturbance) to move across the landscape. Connectivity is the opposite of fragmentation. |
| Connectivity (of habitats) | The linkage of similar but separated vegetation stands by patches, corridors, or "stepping stones" of like vegetation. This term can also refer to the degree to which similar habitats are linked. |
| Consumptive use | Use of resources that reduces the supply, such as logging and mining |
| Contour | A line drawn on a map connecting points of the same elevation. |
| Contrast | The effect of a striking difference in the form, line, color, or texture of an area being viewed. |
| Corridor | Elements of the landscape that connect similar areas. Streamside vegetation may create a corridor of willows and hardwoods between meadows where wildlife feed. |
| Cost | The negative or adverse effects of expenditures resulting from an action. Costs may be monetary, social, physical, or environmental in nature. |
| Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) | An advisory council to the President established by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. It reviews federal programs for their effect on the environment, conducts environmental studies, and advises the President on environmental matters. |

| Term | Definition |
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| County Road | A road under the jurisdiction of the county. |
| Cover | Any feature that conceals wildlife or fish. Cover may be dead or live vegetation, boulders, or undercut stream banks. Animals use cover to escape from predators rest, or feed. |
| Cover type (forest cover type) | Stands of particular vegetation types that are composed of similar species. |
| Created opening | An opening in the forest cover created by the application of even-aged silvicultural practices. |
| Critical Habitat | Specific areas within the geographical area occupied by the species on which are found those physical and biological features (1) essential to the conservation of the species, and (2) that may require special management considerations or protection. Critical habitat shall not include the entire geographic area that can be occupied by the threatened and/or endangered species. |
| Crown | <p>The part of a tree or woody plant bearing live branches and foliage.</p> <p>Dominant - Trees with crowns extending above the general level of the main canopy of even-aged groups of trees, and receiving full light from above and partly from the sides.</p> <p>Co-dominant - Trees with crowns forming the general level of the main canopy in even-aged groups of trees, receiving full light from above and comparatively little from the sides.</p> <p>Intermediate - Trees with crowns extending into the lower portion of the main canopy of even-aged groups of trees, but shorter in height than the co-dominants. They receive little direct light from above and none from the sides.</p> <p>Overtopped (Suppressed) - Trees of varying levels of vigor that have their crowns completely covered by the crowns of one or more neighboring trees.</p> |
| Cultural resource | The remains of sites, structures, or objects used by people in the past; this can be historical or pre-historic. |
| Cumulative effects | Effects on the environment that result from separate, individual actions that, collectively, become significant over time. |
| Cumulative Effects Analysis | An analysis of the effects of the environment that results from the incremental impact of a proposed action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, regardless of what agency (federal or nonfederal), or person undertakes such other actions. |
| Cumulative Impact | The impact on the environment that results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency (federal or non-federal) or person undertakes such other actions. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time. |
| CWA | Clean Water Act |
| CWE | Cumulative Watershed Effects |
| dbh | Diameter at Breast Height: The diameter of a tree 4 and ½ feet above the ground on the uphill side of the tree. |
| DEIS | Draft Environmental Impact Statement - The draft version of the Environmental Impact Statement that is released to the public and other agencies for review and comment. |
| Desired future condition | Land or resource conditions that are expected to result if goals and objectives are fully achieved. |

| Term | Definition |
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| Developed Recreation | Recreation that occurs where improvements have been added to enhance recreation opportunities and accommodate intensive recreation activities in a defined area. |
| Diameter of Breast Height | The standard method for measuring tree diameter at 4 ½ feet from the ground. Also known as dbh. |
| Direct Effects | Effects on the environment that occur at the same time and place as the initial cause or action. |
| Dispersed recreation | Recreation that does not occur in a developed recreation site, such as hunting, backpacking, and scenic driving. |
| Displacement | As applied to wildlife, forced shifts in the patterns of wildlife use, either in location or timing of use. |
| District Ranger | The official responsible for administering the National Forest System lands on a Ranger District. |
| Disturbance | Any event, such as forest fire or insect infestations that alter the structure, composition, or functions of an ecosystem. |
| Diversity | (1) The relative abundance of wildlife species, plant species, communities, habitats, or habitat features per unit of area. (2) The distribution and abundance of different plant and animal communities and species within the area covered by a Land and Resource Management Plan. |
| Draft Environmental Impact Statement | (DEIS) A detailed written statement as required by Sec. 102 (2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). |
| Duration | The length of time management activity and its impacts will be taking place. |
| EA | Environmental Assessment |
| EC | Existing Conditions |
| Ecology | The interrelationships of living things to one another and to their environment, or the study of these interrelationships. |
| Ecoregion | An area over which the climate is sufficiently uniform to permit development of similar ecosystems on sites that have similar properties. Ecoregions contain many landscapes with different spatial patterns of ecosystems. |
| Ecosystem | An arrangement of living and non-living things and the forces that move among them. Living things include plants and animals. Non-living parts of ecosystems may be rocks and minerals. Weather and wildfire are two of the forces that act within ecosystems. |
| Ecosystem management | An ecological approach to natural resource management to assure productive, healthy ecosystems by blending social, economic, physical, and biological needs and values. |
| Ecosystem Structure | The physical arrangement of the various components. In addition, trophic (nourishing) structure; measured in standing crop or energy fixed per unit area per unit time. May be pyramids of numbers, biomass, or energy flows. |
| Edge | The margin where two or more vegetation patches meet, such as a meadow opening next to a mature forest stand, or a ponderosa pine stand next to an aspen stand. |
| Effects (also see Impacts) | Physical, biological, social, and economic results (expected or experienced) resulting from achievement of outputs. Effects can be direct, indirect, and |

| Term | Definition |
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| | cumulative and may be either beneficial or detrimental. (See Impacts) |
| EIS | Environmental Impact Statement (under NEPA) |
| Endangered species | A plant or animal that is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range. Endangered species are identified by the Secretary of the Interior in accordance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973. |
| Endemic | Restricted to a specified region or locality. |
| Endemic plant/organism | A plant or animal that occurs naturally in a certain region and whose distribution is relatively limited geographically. |
| Enhancement | A short-term visual resource management objective aimed at increasing positive visual variety where little variety now exists. |
| Environmental Analysis | An analysis of alternatives actions and their predictable short- and long-term environmental effects, which include physical, biological, economic, social, and environmental design factors and their interactions. Completion of this level of analysis may result in a Decision Notice (DN) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). |
| Environmental Assessment (EA) | A concise public document prepared to provide sufficient evidence and analysis for determining whether to prepare an environmental impact statement or a finding of no significant impact. It includes a brief discussion of the need for the proposal, alternatives considered, environmental impact of the proposed action and alternatives, and a list of agencies and individuals consulted. |
| Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) | A formal public document prepared to analyze and disclose the impacts on the environment of the proposed project or action and alternatives. |
| Environmental Justice | When environmental effects do not disproportionately affect minority or low-income communities. |
| EO | Executive Order |
| EPA | U.S. Environmental Protection Agency |
| Ephemeral Stream | A stream that flows only in direct response to precipitation and whose channel is at all times above the water table. |
| Erosion | (1) The wearing away of the land surface by running water, wind, ice, or other geological agents, including such processes as gravitational creep. (2) Detachment and movement of soil or rock fragments by water, wind, ice, or gravity. |
| Erosion Hazard | The probability of soil loss resulting from complete removal of vegetation and litter. It is an interpretation based on potential soil loss in relation to tolerance values. |
| ESA | Endangered Species Act |
| ESC | Existing Scenic Condition |
| Even-aged | A stand of trees that originated at a single point in time, so that the individual trees are approximately the same age or a regeneration system designed to produce such a stand. |
| Even-aged management | Timber management actions that result in the creation of stands of trees in which the trees are essentially the same age. |
| Executive Orders 11990 and 11988 | The purpose of these executive orders is to avoid to the extent possible the long- and short-term adverse impacts associated with the destruction or modification |

| Term | Definition |
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| | of wetlands and floodplains. |
| Existing Old Growth | Individual stands on a national forest currently recognized as meeting the parameters of the old-growth operational definitions. |
| Existing Scenic Condition | Current Scenic Condition of the Forest. |
| Exotic | Foreign, not native. |
| Fauna | The animal life of an area. |
| FEIS | Final Environmental Impact Statement |
| Felling | Cutting down trees. |
| Final cut | The removal of the last seed bearers or shelter trees after regeneration of new trees has been established in a stand being managed under the shelterwood system of silviculture. |
| Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) | The final version of the public document required by NEPA. |
| Fire regime | The characteristics of fire in a given ecosystem, such as the frequency, predictability, intensity, and seasonality of fire. |
| Fisheries | Resident and anadromous fish species. |
| Fisheries habitat | Streams, lakes, and reservoirs that support fish, or have the potential to support fish. |
| Flood plain | Lowland adjoining a watercourse. At a minimum, the area is subject to a 1 percent or greater chance of flooding in a given year. |
| Flora | The plant life of an area. |
| Forage | All browse and non-woody plants that are eaten by wildlife and livestock. |
| Forb | A broadleaf plant that has little or no woody material in it. |
| Foreground | One of the distance zones of a landscape being viewed. A distance that details can be perceived, normally within one quarter to one-half mile of the viewer. Must be determined on a case-by-case basis. |
| Forest | An area of trees with overlapping crowns (generally forming a 60 to 100 percent cover). |
| Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (RPA) | The parent act that preceded Forest Planning. This act directed that the National Forest System begin systematic resource planning on the National Forest units. |
| Forest cover type | See cover type. |
| Forest Development Transportation System | Those facilities, Forest Development Roads, trails, and airfields, in the transportation network and under Forest Service jurisdiction. |
| Forest health | A measure of the robustness of forest ecosystems. Aspects of forest health include biological diversity; soil, air, and water productivity; natural disturbances; and the capacity of the rest to provide a sustaining flow of goods and services for people. |

| Term | Definition |
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| Forest land | Land at least 10 percent occupied by forest trees of any size or formerly having had such tree cover and not currently developed for non-forest use. Lands developed for non-forest use include areas for crops, improved pasture, residential, or administrative areas, improved roads of any width, and adjoining road clearing and powerline clearing of any width. |
| Forest Plan | A comprehensive management plan prepared under the National Forest Management Act of 1976 that provides standards and guidelines for management activities on the Forest. |
| Forest roads and trails | Roads and trails under the jurisdiction of the Forest Service. |
| Forest Service (FS) | The agency of the United States Department of Agriculture responsible for managing National Forests and Grasslands. |
| Forest Supervisor | The official responsible for administering National Forest lands on an administrative unit, usually one or more National Forests. The Forest Supervisor reports to the Regional Forester. |
| Form | The mass of an object or objects that appears visually unified. |
| Formation | A body of rock identified by lithic (stone) characteristics and stratigraphic (rock strata) position; it is prevailing, but not necessarily tabular, and is mapable at the earth's surface or traceable in the subsurface. |
| FP | Forest Plan |
| Fragmentation | The splitting or isolating of patches of similar habitat, typically forest cover, but including other types of habitat. Habitat can be fragmented naturally or from forest management activities, such as clearcut logging. |
| Frost heave | A land surface that is pushed up by the accumulation of ice in the underlying soil. |
| FSM | Forest Service Manual |
| Fuelbreak | A linear corridor in which vegetation is modified to prevent fires from easily crossing. |
| Fuels | Plants and woody vegetation, both living and dead, that are capable of burning. |
| Fuels management | The treatment of fuels that would otherwise interfere with effective fire management or control. For instance, prescribed fire can reduce the amount of fuels that accumulate on the forest floor before the fuels become so heavy that a natural wildlife in the area would be explosive and impossible to control. |
| Fuelwood | Wood cut into short lengths for burning. |
| Function | All the processes within an ecosystem through which the elements interact, such as succession, the food chain, fire, weather, and the hydrologic cycle. |
| Future Old Growth | Areas on national forests that have been allocated to old-growth restoration through land management decisions. |
| FWS | U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service |
| FY | Fiscal Year |
| Game Species | Any species of wildlife or fish for which seasons and bag limits have been prescribed under state or federal laws, codes, and regulations, and that are normally harvested by hunting, trapping, and fishing. |
| Geology | The study of the planet Earth. It is concerned with the origin of the planet, the material and morphology of the Earth, and its history and the processes that acted (and act) upon it to affect its historic and present forms. |
| Geomorphic | Processes that change the form of the earth, such as volcanic activity, running |

| Term | Definition |
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| processes | water, and glacial action. |
| Geomorphology | The science that deals with the relief features of the earth's surface. |
| GIS (geographic information systems) | GIS is both a database designed to handle geographic data as well as a set of computer operations that can be used to analyze the data. In a sense, GIS can be thought of as a higher order map. |
| Goal | A concise statement that describes a desired condition to be achieved sometime in the future. It is normally expressed in broad, general terms and is timeless in that it has no specific date by which it is to be completed. Goal statements form the principal basis from which objectives are developed. |
| Ground fire | A fire that burns along the forest floor and does not affect trees with thick bark or high crowns. |
| Ground water | The supply of fresh water under the earth's surface in an aquifer or in the soil. |
| Group selection | A method of tree harvest in which trees are removed periodically in small groups. This silvicultural treatment results in small openings that form mosaics of age class groups in the forest. |
| Guilds | A group of organisms that share a common food resource. |
| Habitat | The physical and biological environment for a plant or animal in which all the essentials for its development, existence, and reproduction are present. |
| Habitat capability | The ability of a land area or plant community to support a given species of wildlife. |
| Habitat type | A way to classify land area. A habitat type can support certain climax vegetation, both tree and undergrowth species. Habitat typing can indicate the biological potential of a site. |
| Heritage Resources | Prehistoric, historic, and Native American cultural resources. |
| Hiding cover | Vegetation capable of hiding 90 percent of an adult elk or deer from human view at a distance of 200 feet or less. |
| Human Environment | The factors that include, but are not limited to biological, physical, social, economic, cultural, and aesthetic factors that interrelate to form the environment. |
| Hydrologic Unit | Hierarchical units for designating combinations of watersheds. |
| Hydrology | The science dealing with the study of water on the surface of the land, in the soil and underlying rocks, and in the atmosphere. |
| ID | Interdisciplinary |
| Impact (See Effects) | Physical, biological, social, and economic results (expected or experienced) resulting from achievement of outputs. Effects can be direct, indirect, and cumulative and may be either beneficial or detrimental. |
| IMPLAN Pro | An economic input / output model. |
| Indicator Species | A species of animal or plant whose presence is a fairly certain indication of a particular set of environmental conditions. Indicator species serve to show the effects of development actions on the environment. |
| Indigenous Species | A species that originally inhabited a particular National Forest or National Grassland (see definition of exotic). |
| Indirect Effects | Indirect effects, which are caused by the action and are later in time or farther removed in distance, but are still reasonably foreseeable. Indirect effects may include growth-inducing effects and other effects related to induced changes in the pattern of land use, population density or growth rate, and related effects on |

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| | air and water and other natural systems, including ecosystems. |
| Instream flow | The quantity of water necessary to meet seasonal stream flow requirements to accomplish the purposes of the National Forests, including, but not limited to fisheries, visual quality, and recreational opportunities. |
| Integrated pest management | A process for selecting strategies to regulate forest pests in which all aspects of a pest-host system are studied and weighed. The information considered in selecting appropriate strategies includes the impact of the unregulated pest population on various resources values, alternative regulatory tactics and strategies, and benefit/cost estimates for these alternative strategies. Regulatory strategies are based on sound silvicultural practices and ecology of the pest-host system and consist of a combination of tactics such as timber stand improvement plus selective use of pesticides. A basic principle in the choice of strategy is that it be ecologically compatible or acceptable. |
| Interdisciplinary team | A team of individuals with skills from different disciplines that focuses on the same task or project. |
| Intermittent stream | A stream that flows only at certain times of the year when it receives water from streams or from some surface source, such as melting snow. |
| Inventoried Roadless Area (IRA) | Unroaded areas typically 5000 acres or more that meet criteria for wilderness consideration under the Wilderness Act and that were inventoried during the Forest Service's Roadless Area and Review and Evaluation (RARE II) process, subsequent assessments, or forest planning. |
| Invertebrate | An animal lacking a spinal column. |
| IRA | Inventoried Roadless Area |
| Irretrievable | One of the categories of impacts mentioned in the National Environmental Policy Act to be included in statements of environmental impacts. An irretrievable effect applies to losses of production or commitment of renewable natural resources. |
| Irretrievable Effect | An irretrievable effect is one that is sustained for a certain period of time but is reversible. |
| Irreversible | A category of impacts mentioned in statements of environmental impacts that applies to nonrenewable resources, such as minerals and archaeological sites. Irreversible effects can also refer to effects of actions that can be renewed only after a very long period of time, such as the loss of soil productivity. |
| Irreversible Effects | An irreversible effect is one that cannot be reversed. |
| Issue | Potentially significant impact areas or areas of controversy |
| km | kilometer |
| Ladder fuels | Vegetation located below the crown level of forest trees that can carry fire from the forest floor to tree crowns. Ladder fuels may be low growing tree branches, shrubs, or smaller trees. |
| Landing | Any place where cut timber is assembled for further transport from the timber sale area. |
| Landscape | Any place where cut timber is assembled for further transport from the timber sale area. |
| Late Seral (successional) Stage | The stage of forest development during which the age of trees is usually greater than 80 years depending on the composition of tree species. Small gaps become more common as some trees die allowing full sunlight to reach the mid- and under stories. This stage contains the largest trees within a forest and |

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| | provides the highest capability for large snags, large live cavities, and den tree production. The presence of large, downed, woody material is highest during this period. Old-growth forests occur during the later periods of the seral stage. |
| Litter (forest litter) | The freshly fallen or only slightly decomposed plant material on the forest floor. This layer includes foliage, bark fragments, twigs, flowers, and fruit. |
| Logging slash | The residue left on the ground after timber cutting. It includes unutilized logs, uprooted stumps, broken branches, bark, and leaves. Certain amounts of slash provide important ecosystem roles, such as soil protection, nutrient cycling, and wildlife habitat. |
| LRMP | Land & Resource Management Plan |
| M | Thousand. Five thousand board feet of timber can be expressed as 5M board feet. |
| Management action | Any activity undertaken as part of the administration of the National Forest. |
| Management Area | An aggregation of capability areas that have common management direction under the Forest Plan and may be noncontiguous in the Forest. Consists of a grouping of capability areas selected through evaluation procedures and used to locate decisions and resolve issues and concerns. |
| Management Direction | A statement of multiple-use and other goals and objectives, the associated management practices identified by the Forest Service in the planning process. |
| Management Indicator Species | Species identified in a planning process that are used to monitor the effects of planned management activities on viable populations of wildlife and fish, including those that are socially or economically important. Mitigation Includes: (a) Avoiding the impact altogether by not taking a certain action or parts of an action. (b) Minimizing impacts by limiting the degree of magnitude of the action and its implementation. (c) Rectifying the impact by repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring the affected environment. (d) Reducing or eliminating the impact over time by preservation and maintenance operations during the life of the action. (e) Compensating for the impact by replacing or providing substitute resources or environments. |
| Management practice | A specific activity, measure, course of action, or treatment. |
| Mass movement/wasting | The down-slope movement of large masses of earth material by the force of gravity. Also called a landslide. |
| Matrix | The least fragmented, most continuous pattern element of a landscape; the vegetation type that is most continuous over a landscape. |
| Mature timber | Trees that have attained full development, especially height, and are in full seed production. |
| MBF | Thousand Board Feet |
| MCF | thousand cubic feet |
| Mesic | Pertaining to or adapted to an area that has a balanced supply of water; neither wet nor dry. |
| Microclimate | The climate of a small site. It may differ from the climate at large of the area due |

| Term | Definition |
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| | to aspect, tree cover (or the absence of tree cover), or exposure to winds. |
| Mid Seral (successional) Stage | The stage of forest development during which distinct over story, mid story, and under story canopies are present. The age of trees range from about 20 years to about 90 years depending on the composition of tree species. The trees are usually greater than 10 inches in dbh. This stage provides capability for hard mast production, large standing snags, and live cavities. During this period, tree species reach economic maturity. |
| Mineral soil | Soil that consists mainly of inorganic material, such as weathered rock, rather than organic matter. |
| MIS | Management Indicator Species |
| Mission (of the USDA Forest Service) | "To Care for the Land and Serve the People." As set forth in law, the mission is to achieve quality land management under the sustainable multiple-use management concept to meet the diverse needs of people. |
| Mitigation | Actions taken to avoid, minimize, or rectify the impact of a land management practice. |
| MM | Million |
| MMBF | Million Board Feet |
| Modification | Fundamental change to the provisions of a lease stipulation, either temporarily or for the term of the lease. Therefore, a modification may include an exemption from or alteration to a stipulated requirement. Depending on the specific modification, the stipulation may or may not apply to all other sites within the leasehold to which the restrictive criteria apply. |
| Monitoring | To watch, observe, or check, especially for a specific purpose, such as to keep track of, regulate, or control (Webster's dictionary). |
| Monitoring and evaluation | The periodic evaluation of forest management activities to determine how well objectives were met and how management practices should be adjusted. |
| Montane | Relating to the zone of relatively moist, cool, upland slopes characterized by the presence of large evergreen trees as a dominant life form. |
| Mortality | Trees that were merchantable and have died within a specified period of time. The term mortality can also refer to the rate of death of a species in a given population or community. |
| Mosaic | Areas with a variety of plant communities over a landscape, such as areas with trees and areas without trees occurring over a landscape. |
| MOU | Memorandum of Understanding |
| Mountain pine beetle | A tiny black insect, ranging from 1/8 to 3/4 inch in size, which bores through a pine tree's bark. It stops the tree's intake and transport of the food and nutrients it must have to stay alive, thus killing the tree. |
| Multiple Use (MU) | The management of all the various renewable surface resources of the National Forest System so that they are utilized in the combination that will best meet the needs of the American people, by making the most judicious use of the land for some or all of these resources or related services over areas large enough to provide sufficient latitude for periodic adjustments in use to conform to changing needs and conditions, and recognizing that some lands will be used for less than all of the resources. It also provides for harmonious and coordinated management of the various resources, each with the other, without impairment of the productivity of the land, with consideration being given to the relative values of the various resources, and not necessarily the combination of uses that |

| Term | Definition |
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| | will give the greatest dollar return or the greatest unit output. |
| NAAQS | National Ambient Air Quality Standards |
| National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) | An act which encourages productive and enjoyable harmony between man and his environments; promotes efforts to prevent or eliminate damage to the environment and biosphere and stimulate the health and welfare of man; enriches the understanding of the ecological systems and natural resources important to the Nation; and establishes a Council on Environmental Quality. |
| National Forest Management Act (NFMA) | A law passed in 1976 as amendments to the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act that requires the preparation of Regional and Forest plans and the preparation of regulations to guide that development. |
| National Forest System (NFS) | All National Forest System lands reserved or withdrawn from the public domain of the United States; all National Forest System lands acquired through purchase, exchange, donation, or other means, and other lands, waters, or interests therein which are administered by the Forest Service or are designated for administration through the Forest Service as a part of the system (16 U.S.C. 1609). |
| National Forest System Road (NFSR) | A Forest road under jurisdiction of the Forest Service. |
| National Park Service | The agency of the U.S. Department of the Interior responsible for the administration of national Parks, Monuments, and Historic Sites. It is distinct from the U.S.D.A. Forest Service both administratively and by mission. |
| National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) | A listing of architectural, historical, archaeological, and cultural sites of local, state, or national significance, established by the Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and maintained by the National Park Service. |
| Native Species | All animal and plant species originally occurring in the area. |
| Natural disturbance | See disturbance. |
| Natural Integrity | Roadless area characteristic defined as the extent to which long-term ecological processes are intact and operating. Impacts to natural integrity are measured by the presence and magnitude of human-induced change to an area. This change includes physical developments as well as activity in the area. |
| Natural range of variability | See range of variability. |
| Natural resource | A feature of the natural environment that is of value in serving human needs. |
| NCP | National Contingency Plan |
| NEPA | National Environmental Policy Act |
| New Road Construction | Investment in construction of a road to provide access that adds new miles of road to the transportation system. |
| NFLRMP | National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan – also called the Forest Plan or just the Plan, this document guides the management of a particular National Forest and establishes management standards and guidelines for all lands of that National Forest. |
| NFMA | National Forest Management Act – this law was passed in 1976 and requires the preparation of Regional Guides and Forest Plans. |
| NFMP | National Forest Management Plan |

| Term | Definition |
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| NFRS | National Forest recreation sites that have been inventoried. |
| NFS | National Forest System |
| NFSR | National Forest System Road |
| NHPA | National Historic Preservation Act |
| NMFS | National Marine Fisheries Service |
| NNL | National Natural Landmark |
| No Action Alternative | The management direction, activities, outputs, and effects that are likely to exist in the future if the current trends and management would continue unchanged. Under NEPA, it means following the current approved Forest Plan management direction and guidance. |
| NOAA | National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration |
| NOI | Notice of Intent |
| Nongame | Wildlife species that are not hunted for sport. |
| Northern Region | The portion of the USDA Forest Service, also referred to as Region One, which includes National Forests in North/Central Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, Northwestern South Dakota. |
| Notice of intent | A notice in the Federal Register of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement on a proposed action. |
| Noxious Weed | According to the Federal Noxious Weed Act (PL 93-629), a weed that causes disease or has other adverse effects on man or his environment and therefore is detrimental to the agriculture and commerce of the United States and to the public health. |
| NRCS | Natural Resources Conservation Service |
| NRHP | National Register of Historic Places |
| NWPS | National Wilderness Preservation System |
| Objective | A concise time-specific statement of measurable planned results that respond to pre-established goals. An objective forms the basis for further planning, to defining the precise steps to be taken and the resources to be used in achieving identified goals. |
| Off Highway Vehicle | Any motorized vehicle designed for and/or capable of travel off roads. |
| OHV | off-highway vehicle |
| Old growth | Old forests often containing several canopy layers, variety in trees sizes and species, decadent old trees, and standing and dead woody material. |
| Old Growth Forests | An ecosystem distinguished by old trees and related structural attributes. Old growth encompasses the later stages in a variety of characteristics including tree size, accumulation of large dead woody material, number of canopy layers, species composition, and ecosystem function. Old growth is not necessarily virgin or primeval. It can develop over time following human disturbances, just as it does following natural disturbances. Old growth encompasses both older forests dominated by early seral species and forests in later successional stages dominated by shade tolerant species. |
| ORV | Off-road vehicles, such as motorcycles, 4-wheel drive vehicles, and 4-wheelers |
| Overstory | The upper canopy layer; the plants below comprise the understory. |

| Term | Definition |
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| Ozone | Ozone, the major constituent of smog, is formed through a complex series of chemical reactions and transformations in the presence of sunlight. Ozone is a strong irritant, which attacks the respiratory system, leading to lung tissue damage. Ozone also affects materials such as surface coatings, fabrics, and rubber. |
| Parent materials | The mineral or organic matter from which the upper layers of soil are formed. |
| Partial retention | A visual quality objective, which, in general, means man's activities, may be evident but must remain subordinate to the characteristic landscape. |
| Particulates | Small particles suspended in the air and generally considered pollutants. |
| Patch | An area of homogeneous vegetation, in structure and composition. |
| Perennial Stream | A stream that flows continuously year round. |
| Personal use | The use of a forest product, such as firewood, for home use and not for commercial use. |
| PFA | post-fledgling family area |
| PILT | payments in lieu of taxes |
| PL | Public Law |
| Planning area | The area of the National Forest System covered by a regional guide or forest plan. |
| Plant Community | A group of individual plants of one or more species growing in a specific area in association with one another and with a complex of other plants and animals. |
| PNV | See present net value. |
| Pole/sapling | The stage of forest succession in which trees are between 3 and 7 inches in diameter and are the dominant vegetation. |
| Policy | A guiding principle upon which is based a specific decision or set of decisions. |
| Population | A group of individuals with common ancestry that are much more likely to mate with one another than with individuals from another such group. |
| ppm | part per million |
| Precommercial thinning | Removing some of the trees from a stand that are too small to be sold for lumber or house logs, so the remaining trees will grow faster. |
| Predator | An animal the lives by preying on other animals. Predators are at or near the tops of food chains. |
| Prescribed fire | Fire set intentionally in wildland fuels under prescribed conditions and circumstances. Prescribed fire can rejuvenate forage for livestock and wildlife or prepare sites for natural regeneration of trees. |
| Prescription | Management practices selected to accomplish specific land and resource management objectives. |
| Present net value | PNV – also called present net worth – the measure of the economic value of a project when costs and revenues occur in different time periods. Future revenues and costs are “discounted” to the present by an interest rate that reflects the changing value of a dollar over time. The assumption is that dollars today are more valuable than dollars in the future. PNV is used to compare alternatives that have different cost and revenue flows. |

| Term | Definition |
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| Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) | A classification established to preserve, protect, and enhance the air quality in National Wilderness Preservation System areas in existence prior to August 1977 and other areas of National significance, while ensuring economic growth can occur in a manner consistent with the preservation of existing clean air resources. Specific emission limitations and other measures, by class, are detailed in the Clean Air Act. (42 U.S.C. 1875 et seq.) |
| Primitive (P) | Those recreation activities that occur in areas characterized by an essentially unmodified natural environment of fairly large size. |
| Productive | The ability of an area to provide goods and services and to sustain ecological values. |
| Project Area | Area of analysis for proposed leasing on Sioux Ranger District of the Custer National Forest. |
| Proposed Action | In terms of National Environmental Policy Act, the project, activity, or action that a federal agency intends to implement or undertake and which is the subject of an environmental analysis. |
| PSD | Prevention of Significant Deterioration of Air Quality |
| psi | pounds per square inch |
| Public domain | The territory ceded to the Federal government by the original thirteen states, plus additions by treaty, cession, and purchase. |
| Public involvement | The use of appropriate procedures to inform the public, obtain early and continuing public participating, and consider the views of interested parties in planning and decision making. |
| Public issue | A subject or question of widespread public interest relating to management of the National Forest System. |
| Range | Land on which the principle natural plant cover is composed of native grasses, forbs, and shrubs that are valuable as forage for livestock and big game. |
| Range of Alternatives | The NEPA requires the proposed action, a no action alternative, and a reasonable range of alternatives to the proposed action be addressed in an EIS. |
| Range of variability | Also called the historic range of variability or natural range of variation. The components of healthy ecosystems fluctuate over time. The range of sustainable conditions in an ecosystem is determined by time, processes (such as fire), native species, and the land itself. For instance, ecosystems that have a 10-year fire cycle have narrower range of variation than ecosystems with 200-300 year fire cycles. Past management has placed some ecosystems outside their range of variability. Future management should move such ecosystems back toward their natural, sustainable range of variation. |
| Ranger District | The administrative sub-unit of a National Forest that is supervised by a District ranger who reports directly to the Forest Supervisor. |
| Raptor | Birds of prey, such as owls, hawks, and eagles. |
| RARE II | Roadless Area Review and Evaluation. The national inventory of roadless and undeveloped areas within the National Forests and Grasslands. |
| RD | Ranger District |
| Reclamation | Rehabilitation of a disturbed area to make it acceptable for designated uses. This normally involves regrading, replacement of topsoil, revegetation, and other work such as fertilization and fencing necessary to restore it for use. |

| Term | Definition |
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| Record of Decision (ROD) | A document separate from, but associated with, an environmental impact statement, that publicly and officially discloses the responsible official's decision on the proposed action. |
| Recreation Opportunities | The combination of recreation settings, activities, and experiences provided by an area. |
| Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) | <p>A system for planning and managing recreation resources that recognizes recreation activity opportunities, recreation settings, and recreation experiences along a spectrum or continuum of settings as follows:</p> <p>Primitive - Characterized by essentially unmodified natural environment of fairly large size. Interaction between users is very low and evidence of other users is minimal. The area is managed to be essentially free from evidence of human-induced restrictions and controls. Motorized use is not permitted.</p> <p>Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized - Characterized by predominately natural or natural appearing environment of a moderate to large size. Concentrations of users is low, but there is often evidence of other area users. The area is managed in such a way that minimum on-site controls and restrictions may be present, but are subtle. Motorized use is not permitted.</p> <p>Semi-Primitive Motorized - Characterized by a predominantly natural or natural appearing environment of moderate-to-large size. Concentration of users is low, but there is often evidence of other users. The area is managed in such a way that minimum on-site controls and restrictions may be present, but are subtle. Motorized use is permitted.</p> <p>Roaded Natural - Characterized by predominantly natural appearing environment with moderate evidence of the sights and sounds of man. Such evidences usually harmonize with the natural environment. Interaction between users may be low to moderate, but with the evidence of other users prevalent. Resource modification and utilization practices are evident, but harmonize with the natural environment. Motorized use is permitted.</p> <p>Rural - Characterized by substantially modified natural environment. Resource modification and utilization practices are to enhance specific recreation activities and to maintain vegetative cover and soil. Sights and sounds of humans are readily evident, and the interaction between users is often moderate to high. Facilities are often provided for special activities. Moderate densities are provided far away from developed sites.</p> <p>Urban - Characterized by a substantially urbanized environment, although the background may have natural appearing elements. Vegetative cover is often exotic and manicured. Sights and sounds of humans on-site are predominant.</p> |
| Recreation Visitor Days (RVD) | One visitor day equals 12 hours of human use (one person for 12 hours, or 12 people for 1 hour, or any combination thereof). |
| Reforestation | The restocking of an area with forest trees, by either natural or artificial means, such as planting. |
| Regeneration | The renewal of a tree crop by either natural or artificial means. The term is also used to refer to the young crop itself. |
| Regional Forester | The official of the U.S.D.A. Forest Service responsible for administering an entire region of the Forest Service. |
| Rehabilitation | A short-term visual resource management objective used to restore landscapes containing undesirable visual or other resource impacts to the desired visual or other acceptable quality level. |

| Term | Definition |
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| Remoteness | A characteristic of an area defined as the perceived condition of being secluded, inaccessible, and "out of the way." Topography, vegetative screening, distance from human impacts, distance from sights and sounds of man, and difficulty of travel all contribute to remoteness. |
| Removal cut | The removal of the last seed bearers or shelter trees after regeneration is established. |
| Residual stand | The trees remaining standing after an event such as selection cutting. |
| Resilience | The ability of an ecosystem to maintain diversity, integrity, and ecological processes following a disturbance. |
| Responsible line officer | The Forest Service employee who has the authority to select and/or carry out a specific planning action. |
| Responsible official | The Forest Service employee who has been delegated the authority to carry out a specific planning action. |
| Restoration (of ecosystems) | Actions taken to modify an ecosystem to achieve a desired, healthy, and functioning condition. |
| Restore | To bring back to a former or original condition or appearance. |
| Revegetation | The reestablishment and development of self-sustaining plant cover. On disturbed sites, this normally requires human assistance such as seedbed preparation, reseeding, and mulching. |
| RFD | Reasonably Foreseeable Development Scenario |
| RIM | Recreation Information Management |
| Riparian | Riparian areas consist of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, those lands in a position to directly influence water quality and water resources, whether or not free water is available. This would include all lands in the active flood channel and lands immediately upslope of stream banks. These areas may be associated with lakes, reservoirs, marshes, streams, bogs, wet meadows, and intermittent or permanent streams where free and unbound water is available. |
| Riparian area | The area along a watercourse or around a lake or pond. |
| Riparian Areas | Geographically delineable areas with distinctive resource values and characteristics that comprise the riparian ecosystems. |
| Riparian Ecosystem | a) Ecosystems transitional between terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems. Also streams, lakes, wet areas, and adjacent vegetation communities and their associated soils that have free water at or near the surface. b) Those assemblages of plants, animals, and aquatic communities whose presence can either be directly or indirectly attributed to factors that are water influenced or related. c) Interacting system between aquatic and terrestrial situations, identified by soil characteristics and distinctive vegetation that requires or tolerates free or unbound water. |
| Riparian Zone | An area of vegetation adjacent to an aquatic ecosystem. It has a high water table, certain soil characteristics, and some vegetation that requires free (unbound chemically) water or conditions that are more moist than normal. This zone is transitional between aquatic and upland zones. |
| RN | Roaded Natural |
| Road | A motor vehicle travelway over 50 inches wide, unless designated and managed as a trail. A road may be classified, unclassified, or temporary. |
| Road | Activities that result in the stabilization and restoration of unneeded roads to a |

| Term | Definition |
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| Decommissioning | more natural state. |
| Roaded Natural | A recreation opportunity classification term for describing a land area that has predominately a natural appearing environment with moderate evidence of sights and sounds of humans. Concentration of users is moderate to low. Roads of better than primitive class are usually within 0.5 mile. A broad range of motorized and non-motorized activity opportunities is available. Management activities are present and harmonize with the natural environment. |
| Roadless | Refers to the absence of roads that have been constructed and maintained by mechanical means to ensure regular and continuous use. |
| ROD | Record of Decision |
| ROS | Recreation Opportunity Spectrum |
| Rotation | The number of years required to establish and grow timber crops to a specific condition of maturity. |
| RPA | Resource Planning Act |
| Run-off | The portion of precipitation that flows over the land surface or in open channels. |
| Sacred Site | Any specified, discrete, narrowly delineated location on federal land that is identified by an Indian tribe, or Indian individual determined to be an appropriately authoritative representative of an Indian religion, as sacred by virtue of its established religious significance to, or ceremonial use by, an Indian religion; provided that the tribe or an appropriately authoritative representative of an Indian religion has informed the agency of the existence of such a site. |
| Sapling | A loose term for a young tree more than a few feet tall and an inch or so in diameter that is typically growing vigorously. |
| Scale | In ecosystem management, it refers to the degree of resolution at which ecosystems are observed and measured. |
| Scoping/Scoping Process | An early and open public involvement process for determining the scope of issues to be addressed and for identifying the significant issues related to the proposed action. Identifying the significant environmental issues deserving of study and de-emphasizing insignificant issues, narrowing the scope of the Environmental Impact Statement accordingly. (Ref. CEQ Regulations, 40 CFR 1501.7.) |
| Sediment | Solid mineral or organic material that is transported by air, water, gravity, or ice. |
| Seen area | That portion of the landscape that can be viewed from one or more observer positions. The extent or area that can be viewed is normally limited by landform, vegetation, structures, or distance. |
| Semi-primitive | A recreation opportunity classification term for describing land areas that have very few management controls lying between 0.5 mile and 3 miles from the nearest point of motor vehicle access, excepting four-wheel drive roads and trails, with mostly natural landscapes and some evidence of other people. |
| Semi-Primitive Motorized (SPM) | A land area classified as semi-primitive that may have primitive roads present and where motorized use is permitted. Settings, activities, and opportunities are affected accordingly though there is still a moderate probability of experiencing isolation from sights and sounds of humans. |
| Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized (SPNM) | A land area classified as semi-primitive that has a natural environment and motorized use is not permitted. Non-motorized status increases the probability of experiencing isolation, independence, and closeness to nature. Challenge and risk are generally high. Resource management may be present; however, |

| Term | Definition |
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| | natural appearance is still maintained. |
| Sensitive Species | Those plant or animal species that are susceptible or vulnerable to activity impacts or habitat alterations and will be managed similar to threatened or endangered species. The Forest Service policy is to ensure that species would not be affected in such a manner as to have them listed or proposed for listing as threatened or endangered. |
| Seral | The stage of succession of a plant or animal community that is transitional. If left alone, the seral stage will give way to another plant or animal community that represents a further stage of succession. |
| Shelterwood | A cutting method used in a more or less mature stand, designed to establish a new crop under the protection of the old. |
| SHPO | State Historic Preservation Office |
| Significant Impact/Effect | An impact or effect is significant when it is projected to meet or exceed threshold standards, while considering how substantial the impact or effect is, considering its context and intensity. |
| Silviculture | The art science that promotes the growth of single trees and the forest as a biological unit. |
| Size class | One of the three intervals of three stem diameters used to classify timber in the Forest Plan database. The size classes are: Seedling/Sapling (less than 5 inches in diameter); Pole timber (5 to 7 inches in diameter); Saw timber (greater than 7 inches in diameter). |
| Skidding | Hauling logs by sliding, not on wheels, from stump to a collection point. |
| Skyline logging | A logging system used to remove timber from steep slopes. Logs are brought up-slope on a suspended cable, or skyline. Since the weight of the log is completely or partially supported by the cable, there is little disturbance to soil or other vegetation. |
| Slash | The residue left on the ground after timber cutting or left after a storm, fire, or other event. Slash includes logs, uprooted stumps, broken or uprooted stems, branches, bark, etc. |
| Slope | The amount or degree of deviation from the horizontal or vertical. Concerning visual or scenic resources, as slope increases, views into a site and the size of the disturbance increase. Generally, the steeper slopes are more visible due to their location in the landscape. |
| Slump | A landslide where the underlying rock masses tilt back as they slide from a cliff or escarpment. |
| Snag | A standing dead tree. Snags are important as habitat for a variety of wildlife species and their prey. |
| Soil compaction | The reduction of soil volume. For instance, the weight of heavy equipment on soils can compact the soil and thereby change it in some ways, such as in its ability to absorb water. |
| Soil productivity | The capacity of a soil to produce a specific crop. Productivity depends on adequate moisture and soil nutrients, as well as favorable climate. |
| Solitude | A personal, subjective value and roadless area characteristic defined as isolation from the sights, sounds, presence of others, and the developments of man. A primitive recreation experience includes the opportunity to experience solitude, a sense of remoteness, closeness to nature, serenity, and spirit of adventure. |

| Term | Definition |
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| Special Features | Unique geological, biological, ecological, cultural, or scenic features located in a roadless area. Unique fish and animal species, unique plants or plant communities, potential Research Natural Areas, outstanding landscape features such as unique rock formations, and significant cultural resource sites are some of the items that should be considered when analyzing this element. |
| Stand | A group of trees that occupies a specific area and is similar in species, age, and condition. |
| Standards and guidelines | Requirements found in a forest plan which impose limits on natural resource management activities, generally for environmental protection. |
| Stewardship | Caring for the land and its resources to pass healthy ecosystems to future generations. |
| Stocking level | The number of trees in an area as compared to the desirable number of trees for best results, such as maximum wood production. |
| Stringer | A strip of vegetation different from surrounding vegetation, such as a stringer of aspen in an area of spruce. |
| Structure | How the parts of ecosystems are arranged, both horizontally and vertically. Structure might reveal a pattern, or mosaic, or total randomness of vegetation. |
| Succession | The natural replacement, in time, of one plant community with another. Conditions of the prior plant community (or successional stage) create conditions that are favorable for the establishment of the next stage. |
| Successional stage | A stage of development of a plant community as it moves from bare ground to climax. The grass-form stage of succession precedes the woody shrub stage. |
| Suitability | The appropriateness of certain resource management to an area of land. Suitability can be determined by environmental and economic analysis of management practices. |
| SUP | Special Use Permit |
| Sustainability | The ability of an ecosystem to maintain ecological processes and functions, biological diversity, and productivity over time. |
| Sustainable | The yield of a natural resource that can be produced continually at a given intensity of management is said to be sustainable. |
| Sustained yield | The yield that a renewable resource can produce continuously at a given intensity of management. |
| Sustained-yield of products and services | The achievement and maintenance in perpetuity of a high-level annual or regular periodic output of the various renewable resources of the National Forest System without impairment of the productivity of the land. |
| Target | A National Forest's annual goals for accomplishment for natural resource programs. Targets represent the commitment the Forest Service has with Congress to accomplish the work Congress has funded, and are often used as a measure of the agency's performance. |
| TDS | Total Dissolved Solids |
| Temporary Road | Roads authorized by contract, permit, lease, other written authorization, or emergency operation, not intended to be part of the forest transportation system and not necessary for long-term resource management. |
| Terrestrial | Living or growing in or on the land. |
| TES | Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive (Species) |
| Texture | Detail of landscape that varies with distance. |

| Term | Definition |
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| Thinning | A cutting made in an immature stand of trees to accelerate growth of the remaining trees or to improve the form of the remaining trees. |
| Threatened Species | Any species likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range, and that has been designated in the Federal Register by the Secretary of the Interior as a threatened species. |
| Tiering | Refers to the elimination of repetitive discussions of the same issue by incorporating by reference the general discussion in an environmental impact statement of broader scope. For example, a project environmental assessment could be tiered to the Forest Plan EIS. |
| Timber production | The purposeful growing, tending, harvesting, and regeneration of regulated crops of trees to be cut into logs, bolts, or other round sections for industrial or consumer use. For purposes of this subpart, the term "timber production" does not include production of fuelwood. |
| TOC | Threshold of Concern |
| tpy | ton per year |
| Tractor logging | A logging method that uses tractors to carry or drag logs from the stump to a collection point. |
| Treatment area | The site-specific location of a resource improvement activity. |
| TSI | Timber Stand Improvement – Actions to improve growing conditions for trees in a stand, such as thinning, pruning, prescribed fire, or release cutting. |
| Unclassified Road | Roads on National Forest System lands that are not managed as part of the forest transportation system, such as unplanned roads, abandoned travel-ways, and off-road vehicle tracks that have not been designated and managed as a trail; and those roads that were once under permit or other authorization and were not decommissioned upon termination of the authorization. |
| Underburn | A burn by a surface fire that can consume ground vegetation and "ladder" fuels. |
| Understory | The trees and other woody species that grow under a more or less continuous cover of branches and foliage formed collectively by the upper portion of adjacent trees and other woody growth. |
| Uneven-aged | A stand of trees in which the individual trees originated over a long period of time and, thus, differ widely in age; a regeneration system designed to produce such a stand. |
| USDA | U.S. Department of Agriculture |
| USDI | U.S. Department of Interior |
| USFWS | U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service |
| USGS | U.S. Geological Survey |
| Vegetation management | Activities designed primarily to promote the health of forest vegetation for multiple-use purposes. |
| Vegetation type | A plant community with distinguishable characteristics. |
| Viability | The likelihood of continued existence in an area for some specified period of time. |
| Viable population | The number of individuals of a species sufficient to ensure the long-term existence of the species in natural, self-sustaining populations that are adequately distributed throughout their range. |
| Viewshed | A total landscape as seen from a particular viewpoint. |

| Term | Definition |
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| Visual (or Scenic) Resource | The composite of basic terrain, geologic features, water features, vegetative patterns, and land use effects that typify a land unit and influence the visual appeal of the unit. |
| Visual Management System | A management system that establishes the "visual landscape" as a basic resource, treated as an essential part of the land. The visual management system provides a framework to inventory the visual resource and provides measurable standards for its management. |
| Visual Quality Objectives (VQO) | A classification based upon variety class, sensitivity level, and distance zone determinations. Each objective describes a different level of acceptable alteration based on aesthetic importance. The degree of alteration is based on contrast with the surrounding landscape. The VQOs are: Preservation: In general, human activities are not detectable to the visitor. Retention: Human activities are not evident to the casual Forest visitor. Partial Retention: Human activities may be evident, but must remain subordinate to the characteristic landscape. Modification: Human activity may dominate the characteristic landscape, but must, at the same time, use naturally established form, line, color, and texture. It should appear as a natural occurrence when viewed in middle ground or background. Maximum Modification: Human activity may dominate the characteristic landscape, but should appear as a natural occurrence when viewed as background. |
| Visual resource | A part of the landscape important for its scenic quality. It may include a composite of terrain, geologic features, or vegetation. |
| VMS | Visual Management System |
| VQO | Visual Quality Objective |
| VRM | Visual Resource Management |
| Water table | The upper surface of groundwater. Below it, the soil is saturated with water. |
| Water yield | The runoff from a watershed, including groundwater outflow. |
| Watershed | The entire region drained by a waterway (or into a lake or reservoir. More specifically, a watershed is an area of land above a given point on a stream that contributes water to the streamflow at that point. |
| Wetlands | Areas that are permanently wet or are intermittently covered with water. |
| Wilderness | An area of undeveloped federal land designated Wilderness by Congress, retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, protected and managed to preserve its natural conditions and that (1) generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable, (2) has outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation, (3) has at least 5,000 acres or is of sufficient size to make practical its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition, and (4) also may contain features that are of ecological, geological, scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value. These characteristics were identified by Congress in the Wilderness Act of 1964. |
| Wildfire | Any wildland fire that is not a prescribed fire. |
| Wildlife | Mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and invertebrates. |
| Windthrow | Trees uprooted by wind. |

| Term | Definition |
|-----------|---|
| Woodlands | An open stand of trees with crowns not usually touching (generally forming a 25 to 60 percent cover). |
| Yarding | Moving the cut trees from where they fell to a centralized place (landing) for hauling away from the stand. |
| ZOI | Zone of Influence – the area influenced by Forest Service management activities. |

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